

SENATE BILL 1620
By Black

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 56, relative to alternative methods of teacher licensure.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 56, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 49-5-5610

(a) As an alternative to other methods of licensure provided for in this part, and to prepare professional individuals with expertise in teaching areas of critical shortage to teach in Tennessee schools, a program for teaching as a second career is hereby established.

(b) The commissioner of education shall implement a "teaching as a second career" program on the basis of competitive grants to institutions of higher education in partnership with local education agencies.

(c) Local education agencies shall nominate individuals to participate in the program. The program shall carefully screen candidates that the local education agencies have identified for employment in teaching shortage areas. Applicants must have expertise in and be willing to teach in areas of teacher shortage, as identified by the state board of education.

(d) The state board of education shall establish guidelines for the program that include a summer pre-service program, ongoing study and support during the first year of teaching and successful completion of passing scores on appropriate teacher examinations. If the individual receives a positive evaluation following the first year of teaching, the individual shall be issued an apprentice license.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.